

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6579
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1550

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MASS, EAID, US, SO, SA
SUBJECT SIAD TELLS CODEL LEGGETT SOMALIA NEEDS US SUPPORT

1. PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE TOLD VISITING CONGRESSMEN LEGGETT AND DUNCAN THAT THE USG COULD SEND ITS OWN MEN TO KEEP TABS ON ANY US EQUIPMENT PROVIDED TO THE SOMALI MILITARY IF THE USG FOUND THE WRITTEN GUARANTEES HE HAD ALREADY PROVIDED INSUFFICIENT. HE ALLUDED TO NEW CONDITIONS WHICH THE USG INVARIABLY FOUND TO DEFER ACTION ON THE MILITARY SECURITY RELATIONSHIP. IN A SEPARATE REMARK, POINTEDLY DELIVERED TO THE CHARGE, SIAD ADDED, "YOU MAY SEND YOUR MILITARY OBSERVER OR ATTACHE AT ANY TIME YOU LIKE". THE SOMALI LEADER ALSO APPEALED TO THE TWO CONGRESSMEN TO CARRY A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT CARTER REQUESTING THE DISPATCH OF AN INVESTIGATING TEAM TO VERIFY THE PERSECUTION OF SOMALI RESIDENTS IN "WESTERN SOMALIA". DURING THE THREE-HOUR CALL, SAID REPEATEDLY HARKENED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE GSDR. HE SAID THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF WESTERN AND PARTICULARLY US SUPPORT, YOUNG ARMY OFFICERS AND INTELLECTUALS WERE QUESTIONING THE WISDOM OF THE BREAK WITH THE

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SOVIETS LAST NOVEMBER. AT ONE POINT HE SAID, "I DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE OUTSIDE (A CLEAR REFERENCE TO FOREIGN THREATS), I WORRY ABOUT WHAT MAY HAPPEN IN SOMALIA". SIAD EMPHASIZED THAT A TAKE OVER BY THE JUNIORS WOULD INEVITABLY MEAN A RETURN TO A GSDR POLICY OF SUBSERVIENCE TO THE SOVIET UNION.

2. CHAIRMAN LEGGETT OPENED THE JULY 7 EVENING CALL BY STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED TO THE US RELATIONSHIP TO SOMALIA, AND THANKING THE SOMALI PRESIDENT FOR THE HOSPITALITY THE GODEL ENJOYED. LEGGETT SAID HE THOUGHT MORE COULD BE DONE TO CONSOLIDATE THE TIES OF LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES IN THE AREA, AND SUGGESTED AN ALLIANCE AMONG SAUDI ARABIA, THE UNITED STATES, AND SOMALIA DEVOTED TO THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF THE GSDR. LEGGETT URGED SOMALIA ACCEPT A US CORPS OF ENGINEERS MISSION WHICH WITH SAUDI FINANCIAL SUPPORT WOULD RAPIDLY IDENTIFY MAJOR CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS IN SOMALIA AND IMPLEMENT PLANS TO GIVE THE GSDR A MODERN INFRASTRUCTURE. LEGGETT COUNSELED SIAD TO MODERATE HIS MILITARY DEMANDS UPON THE US, EXPLAINING THAT WHATEVER QUANTITIES WHICH MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING WOULD BE MODEST. HE URGED SIAD TO LOOK TO BUILDING A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US AND THE SAUDIS AS A SECURITY ARRANGEMENT AS WELL AS A PATHWAY TO RAPID DEVELOPMENT. THE CONGRESSMAN MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE PROPOSALS HE ADVANCED WERE HIS OWN, BUT EXPLAINED THAT HE WOULD ENERGETICALLY LOBBY FOR THEM WITHIN THE USG.

3. IN REPLY SIAD, USING THE SOTTO VOCE HE RESERVES IN INTRODUCING A LONG LENGTHY PRESENTATION, LAUNCHED A PHILOSOPHICAL DISCOURSE ON MANKIND'S PROGRESS AND HIS OWN DEEP DEDICATION TO PEACE. HE OUTLINED THE HISTORY
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OF THE CONFLICT IN THE OGADEN, CITED THE PERFIDY OF COLONIALIST RULERS, AND DESCRIBED THE FEELINGS OF LOYALTY AND OBLIGATION HE HAS TOWARD SOMALIS LIVING IN THAT REGION. HE EMPHATICALLY ASSERTED THE GSDR HAS NO PLANS TO ANNEX THE OGADEN. "LET THEM DECIDE THEIR OWN FATE", HE SAID, POINTING OUT THAT DEJBOUTI SOMALIS OPTED FOR INDEPENDENCE, AND THE GSDR, WHICH ASSISTED THEM IN THEIR INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE, ACCEPTED THAT WITHOUT A MURMUR OF DISSSENT. SIAD FREQUENTLY HARKENED TO THREATS TO SOMALIA FROM THE WARSAW PACT. HE DEPICTED HIS COUNTRY AS THE DEFENDER OF WESTERN INTERESTS IN AFRICA, AND THE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE TO FURTHER SOVIET EXPANSION. SIAD SAID SOMALIA HAS OFFERED ITS FRIENDSHIP TO THE US; IT NOW WAITS A TIMELY RESPONSE.

4. THE SOMALI LEADER ALSO DISCOURSED AT LENGTH ON THE RELATIONSHIP WITH KENYA, ENUMERATING THE THREE VISITS HE MADE THERE, THE NUMBER OF TIMES HE HAD SENT HIS FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER EMISSARIES TO KENYA, AND CONTENDING THE GSDR HAS NO GOALS BUT FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR SOMALIS IN KENYA. "WE HAVE PLENTY OF LAND HE SAID; WE NEED NO MORE"

5. AT THE END OF THE CALL, SIAD THANKED THE VISITING CONGRESSMEN FOR THEIR INTEREST IN SOMALIA. HE SAID HE WOULD BE GLAD TO ENTER INTO ANY ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD MAKE FOR CLOSER TIES AMONG THE US, SAUDI ARABIA, AND SOMALIA.

6. VICE PRESIDENT KULMIYE AND MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS OMAR ARTEH SAT IN ON THE GSDR SIAD. THEY TOOK LITTLE PART OTHER THAN TO SECOND SIAD'S POINTS. OMAR ARTEH SAID THE GSDR SEEKS FROM THE US TODAY EXACTLY WHAT PRESIDENT SIAD SOUGHT FROM PRESENT FORD IN 1974, A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF GSDR PROBLEMS AND POSITIONS. CHARGE, CODEL STAFF, AND EMBASSY ESCORT ATTENDED ON US SIDE.
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7. SEPTTEL COMMENT FOLLOWS.
VOUGHT

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